

"Ask the Consul" chat about Visa issues

August 31, 4:30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

TRANSCRIPT:

Moderator: Hi This is "Ask the Consul" chat about Visa Issues. Are you planning a trip to the U.S.? Have lots of queries about visa procedures? Our consular officer will make it all easy for you. Chat live about visa issues with a New Delhi Consular Officer.

Moderator: The consular officer will provide guidance on general queries. Personal visa issues will not be discussed.

Moderator (Submitted question): Your questions will appear once the chat starts on August 31, 4:30 p.m.

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Moderator: Hi thanks for joining in! We are about to begin our chat.

Prof. Kulshreshtha: My 10-year visa will expire sometime in September 2011. During this period I have been to the US for 4-5 times for about two weeks each time. My American son with his American wife lives in the US. When should I apply for the renewal of visa? Thanks

Consular Officer: You should apply for a new visa close to the time your old one is expiring. But remember that appointments can take some time to get, and processing can take some time, so the earlier you apply the better.

himanshu: I am planning to attend a US b-school next year. I recently got a technical training assignment in Saudi Arabia. Will going to saudi arabia affect my chances of getting US visa next year in any way?

kautuk: i would like 2 do my masters 4m us, u pls tell me how cm i apply 4 visa, is it too eayr 4 me 2 ask u or it is rit tym to talk 2 u about same

Consular Officer: Students are judged on their education plan and their ability to fund their education. Travel history is not a significant factor in the student visa process

Raghu: Hi, I could not locate specific documentation requirements, procedure and processing time info for L-2 visa on the website. Please advise.

Moderator: What are your most useful tips for visa applicants? Question to James W.

Herman, the U.S. Consul General in New Delhi who spoke with SPAN Editor Laurinda Keys Long about making the visa process transparent, comfortable, fast and secure. Check it out at <http://span.state.gov/jul-aug2010/eng/34-35-ConsulGenral.html>

Consular Officer: Please also see http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1271.html for specifics on work visas

User1: I wanted to know that if a Business Visa (B1) is rejected on the first try with the reason say lack of experience, is there any harm in applying again with the supporting documents?

Consular Officer: You are always able to apply again, but please consider carefully the booklet you were given when your first visa was refused.

bbb: Hi, Why are random cases selected for administrative processing? what is the average time to get visa after admin processing?

Consular Officer: •We routinely issue 10-year, multiple entry tourist and business visas—no other country's visa has a longer validity. We process 97% of the visa applications we receive in one business day.

Rachna Pandit: Are students travelling to canada via USA required to have US Visa? If yes is there an emergency visa that can be issued in a day and how?

ashwani: what are the requirements for the visitor visa to US? please answer in detail.

Consular Officer: Please see our website for specifics on various visas. Emergency appointments are granted on an emergency basis. Write our consular section with your request. Our website is <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/consular.html>

Rajeev Aggarwal: How far in advance can one apply for a B1/B2 visa, if a visit is planned in June 2011? Does a currently valid 10-year B1/B2 visa, expiring before June 2011 have any correlation?

Consular Officer: You can apply for a B1/B2 visa at any time, granted you have valid travel plans. The visa validity indicates until what date you may ENTER the U.S.

devindra mawai: i am supposed to apply for visa stamping for my H-1b , please let me know how to increase my chances of getting it

Consular Officer: H1/B visas are based on the qualifications of the worker and the genuine existence of legal employment in the United States

Consular Officer: •We are committed to facilitating legitimate travel and maintaining the safety and security of all international travelers. We process more than 600,000 nonimmigrant visa applications per year in India—the second highest volume in the world. India contributes more students to U.S. universities than any other country, with over 100,000 actively studying in the U.S. India represents 10% of worldwide NIV applications
guest_24: Would lack of good academic scores can become a trouble during the visa interview for someone trying to get in art/animation schools? Even though the prospective student got a impressive portfolio? Thanks in advance.

Consular Officer: Getting a student visa requires acceptance to an accredited American institution, payment of the required fees, and a logical educational plan. During the interview, present yourself honestly and openly.

Vineet: Science and technology applicants are asked to submit an itinerary of the places, they are planning to visit. Can this be a simple list typed on a PC?

Consular Officer: Yes

Bhupinder singh: how much time it will take for immigration visa?

Consular Officer: Immigration visas vary in time depending on the classification. Some take 6 months, some take many years

devindra mawai: does it make any difference applying for visa h-1b with ur without family

Consular Officer: No

User1: @Consular Officer : I wanted to know that if a Business Visa (B1) is rejected on the first try with the reason say lack of experience, is there any harm in applying again with the supporting documents? Thanks.

Consular Officer: No, there is no harm in applying a second time

Amar: While booking the visa appointment thru VFS, a question is asked which is " Are you applying for the same class of visa which is currently valid or has expired within the past 12 months?* Renewal of the visa in the same class i.e. H1B, Should I be selecting YES or NO to this question ?

Consular Officer: It depends. Do you have a current H1B? If yes, then YES.

Mike: Hello, Is it generally difficult for Indian Muslims to get US visa? . I have heard a lot of case of denial , delaying in obtaining visa from Indian muslims. Could you clarify how the situation with respect to indian muslims

Consular Officer: We do not profile or discriminate against any religion, race, or other group in the visa process. Our application form does not even request religious identification from applicants. Muslims represent only a small percentage of the visa applicants in India who require further processing.

shiv rana: shiv rana If one wishes to submit some additional information after submission of application for non residents Visa , whom should the information be addressed on e mail i

Consular Officer: Only if you have been requested to submit information. You can send queries to nivnd@state.gov

Amar: Previous two visa stampings were on the old passport, got a new passport now, should I bring the old passport with me when applying for the visa again ?

Consular Officer: Yes, that is helpful to establish your travel history

Sudha: Will paying the tuition fees in advance to the universities before issuance of visa be a positive point for the student visa

Consular Officer: To qualify for a student visa, you must show admittance to an accredited American institution, payment of the correct fees, and a legitimate and logical educational plan

Rahul Maniktala: does it has to be the biological relative to sponsor me? can a friend, who is U.S. citizen can sponsor me from there for tourist visa?

Rahul Maniktala: can a friend, who is U.S. citizen can sponsor me from there?

Consular Officer: Sponsorship is not required for a tourist visa

Vineet: while at the time of visa interview am I suppose to carry my bank pass book?

nikhil nanda: what financial documents required for a m1 visa?

Consular Officer: Your bank pass book is not required for visa processing

Consular Officer: An M1 visa has similar requirements to an F1 visa. Admittance to an accredited institution, ability to pay, and a logical educational plan

jarnail: i want to ask about b1 visa and what is the age requirement

Rahul Maniktala: thanks for the answer sir. i appreciate it

Consular Officer: everyone from India requires a visa to enter the United States, regardless of age

neo: Do you issue student visa for a 1 year certificate course? or is it only for degree course?

manoj kumar: Respected ladies and gentlemen of us consulate, just want to know what is your expectations with regards to candidates who are applying for c1d visa?

Consular Officer: If the organization is accredited in the United States, the course is full time, and the course is needed to complete a degree, then a student visa is appropriate

Naresh K.Pande: If one has visited USA thrice earlier, how much time would be required to get a new visa? Does it matter if there is over two decades gap between the last visit and the next one?

Consular Officer: A C1/D visas are transit visas

SUKHBIR: HOW MUCH FUND DO I NEED FOR TOURIST VISA?

Consular Officer: Please see http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/types_of_visas/visa-type-test.html for more information on C1/D visas

Jennifer: When i apply for a student visa for next fall...can i also apply for a tourist visa to just visit US before my school session begins?

Consular Officer: From the time you make the appointment to getting the visa, processing times vary from 1-3 months, but it could be longer depending on circumstances. Our best advice is to apply early

JJ: Why is that single unemployed women are invariably rejected for a tourist visa? What's the best way for them to show their ties to India so that a visa officer views their applications more favorably?

Consular Officer: Tourist visas cost \$140

Roya: Do you provide visa for students in India with Iranian nationality?

Consular Officer: You can apply for a tourist visa at any time, but you will not be issued the student visa until 120 days before the beginning of your session.

Consular Officer: any given year we approve about two-thirds of all B-visa applications.

Consular Officer: JJ, We have greatly improved consular efficiencies in recent years. We process 97% of the visa applications we receive by the next business day. There is

an enormous demand for visas, and we're taking steps to accommodate that. Note that India alone represents 10% of worldwide non-immigrant visa applications. We process more than 600,000 nonimmigrant visa applications per year in India—the second highest volume in the world.

Tim: What documentary evidence does one need to carry/required if so as a proof of relationship when coming to the consulate for an immigrant visa interview appointment in case of LPR applying for spouse.

Consular Officer: Roya, we do not discriminate against any ethnic or national background.

sachinkumarsrivastava 2: What should one do if Immigration officer denies to give the US visa without seeing the documents.

Consular Officer: tim, please direct your inquiry to ivnd@state.gov

sivasubramanian: sivasubramanian:my Q-any limits on the period of stay within the 10 yr. visa period?

Consular Officer: Depending on the visa, documents may not be required for the officer to make a decision. Please read the booklet they gave you, and re-apply if you wish. Please note that we process 600,000 non immigrant visas per year

swami: I want to know one major thing that people have a fear to deny of visa from Embassy always ; that's why the agents take a advantage, please explain some reason of deny visa ?

Consular Officer: Your visa is permission to travel to the United States. The amount of time you can actually stay in the United States per visit is up to the Department of Homeland Security upon arrival.

Saurabh Agarwal: In case if I am selected for the US Fulbright Program and I intend to Visit US from September 2011 to May 2012, what are the specific guidelines for getting the US Visa

Consular Officer: Visas are denied for many reasons. •We are committed to facilitating legitimate travel and maintaining the safety and security of all international travelers. •We have enhanced fraud prevention capabilities across India to protect applicants from unscrupulous touts and vendors and to reduce the number of appointments taken by unqualified applicants. We continue to work closely with Indian authorities to improve safety and security for all travelers.

Consular Officer: Saurabh, please know when you are selected through the process you will be informed of the visa category you will fit into.

Moderator: Thank you for participating! Our Consular officer has tried to answer most of the general queries in the limited time available. We are about to close the chat now.

Consular Officer: Thank you for your interest in visiting/studying/working in the United States!

Please see our website for more information. <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/consular.html>